

**Remarks**

In the specification, the first paragraph has been amended to clarify the priority claim of the present application and to provide the serial number of related co-pending application serial no. 10/821,815 which was filed on the same day as the present application.

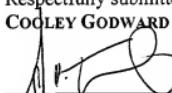
Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the remarks herein prior to further examination of the above-identified application. The undersigned would of course be available to discuss the present application with the Examiner if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a discussion could lead to resolution of any outstanding issues.

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Respectfully submitted,  
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